



CITY OF HOUSTON

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
Office of the Secretary
Marlene H. Dortch
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Waiver of "Community Hotspots" Concept, FCC Docket No. 02-6

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The Houston Public Library (HPL) respectfully seeks a waiver of the FCC rules regarding the Community Hotspots Initiative. The 6th Report and Order expanded the use of existing services including Internet Access to the community. In doing so, it enabled increased opportunity for the public, specifically for individuals living in underserved communities, to benefit from access to the Internet.

HPL serves the seventh largest service population in the country through its network of 42 locations. Notably, 20% of the families in the service area live at or below the poverty level. This footprint serves as foundation for the City of Houston's Digital Inclusion Initiative, WeCAN (Wireless Empowered Community Access Network). Operated under HPL, WeCAN was established at the Mayoral level to bridge Houston's digital divide.

HPL asks the FCC to waive the arbitrary site restrictions for the Internet Access that currently is not utilized after library hours. Under the existing rules made permanent by the 6th Report and Order, the community must come to the library site. HPL is seeking to allow the "Internet Access" in support of WeCAN's mission to make broadband Internet access more accessible in high need communities, working in conjunction with the City and community partners. Attached please find HPL's E-Rate Deployed Ubiquitously (EDU) proposal which details these efforts.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this waiver. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Library.

Sincerely,

Ronald Stauss,
Chief Technology Officer
Houston Public Library

Cc: James Bachtell, Wireline Competition Bureau